

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. A substantially rigid thimble adapted to extend up over the first knuckle
2 position so as to assist the user in maintaining a substantially straight finger
3 at the first knuckle position and having a needle contacting surface with one
4 or more indents between the tip of the finger and a position adjacent or past
5 the first knuckle position.
- 1 2. A substantially rigid thimble adapted to extend up over the first knuckle
2 position of a user so as to form a close tolerance push fit over the first knuckle
3 thereby bracing the knuckle against substantial bending; the thimble having a
4 needle contacting surface with one or more indents between the tip of the
5 finger and a position adjacent or past the first knuckle position.
- 1 3. A thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof being open at both ends so that
2 the tip of the finger is not covered.
- 1 4. A thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof having a multiplicity of indents in
2 the needle contacting surface; the indents extending between a position
3 adjacent the tip of the finger and a position adjacent the first knuckle.
- 1 5. A thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof being open-ended and between
2 20 and 45 mm in length.
- 1 6. A thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof being open-ended and between
2 25 and 45 mm in length.

1 7. A thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof wherein the inside of the front
2 face of thimble substantially flattened in order to assist in keying the thimble
3 to the finger thereby preventing rotation thereabout.

1 8. A thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof wherein one or more of the inside
2 faces of the thimble are substantially flattened in order to assist in keying the
3 thimble to the finger thereby preventing rotation thereabout.

1 9. A thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof which tapers inwardly along its
2 length as it extends towards the finger tip.

1 10. A method of quilting utilising a thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof as a
2 brace in order to ensure that the first knuckle position of the thimble bearing
3 finger used to push the needle is not bent more than 25 degrees.

1 11. A method of quilting utilising a thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof as a
2 brace in order to ensure that the first knuckle position of the thimble bearing
3 finger used to push the needle is not bent more than 15 degrees.

1 12. A method of quilting utilising a thimble in accordance with claim 1 hereof to
2 facilitate use of long needles with multiple stitches loaded thereon.